



IP

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Takumi SEKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2871

Application No.: 10/677,487

Examiner: Minh Toan T. Ton

Filed: October 3, 2003

Docket No.: 116756.01

For: ELECTRO-OPTICAL DEVICE AND ELECTRONIC APPARATUS

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the September 7, 2004 Office Action, reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. Claims 2 and 4 have been withdrawn from further consideration.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Okamoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,608,660). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In particular, Okamoto does not disclose or suggest an electro-optical device, including at least each of semiconductor elements adjacent to an element substrate having a light-shielding layer that shields the semiconductor elements from incident light, the light-shielding layer having openings in substantially the same regions as those of the openings of the openings in a reflective plate, as recited in independent claim 1.

Specifically the Office Action asserts that Okamoto discloses an element substrate 1 including semiconductor elements that drive pixel electrodes. See paragraph 3 of the Office Action. However, Figure 13 of Okamoto does not disclose or suggest a semiconductor

element, e.g., a TFT. Although Okamoto discloses that the liquid crystal display device in Fig. 13 is a passive matrix device, Okamoto also discloses that the liquid crystal display device can also be an active matrix liquid crystal display device with TFT elements. See column 14, lines 53-67. However, even if Okamoto includes the TFT elements, nowhere is it disclosed or suggested that each of the semiconductor elements adjacent to an element substrate would include a light-shielding layer that shields the semiconductor element from incident light, the light-shielding layer having openings in substantially the same regions as those of openings in the reflective plate.

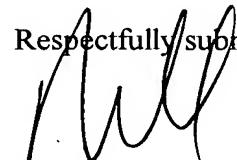
On the contrary, Okamoto instead discloses that in order to prevent a decrease in the contrast ratio due to light leakage, the shading film 13 may be provided on a substrate opposing a reflector. See Fig. 13 and column 2, lines 12-16. Thus, the shading layer 13 in Figure 13 of Okamoto prevents a decrease in the contrast ratio due to light leakage. The shading film 13 is formed by laminating the coloring layer of at least two colors. See column 4, lines 21-23. However, Okamoto discloses that light passes through the shading film 13 twice in a reflective display. See column 3, lines 8-12. Thus, the shading film 13 in Okamoto clearly is not a light-shielding layer that shields any semiconductor element from incident light.

Because Okamoto fails to disclose each and every feature as the claimed invention, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 3 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: November 19, 2004

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